

scan direction, and

wherein a ratio of a static beam-spot diameter W_s in the sub-scan direction on the surface of said photosensitive body defined by $1/e^2$ of the maximum value in the exposure distribution of the beam spot to an interval L between adjacent scan lines satisfies the following formula:

$$1.2 < W_s/L < 4.5$$

to thereby form said dots between adjacent scan lines in a manner to increase resolution in the sub-scan direction.

7. (Amended) An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a photosensitive means; and

an optical scanning device having a deflecting means for deflecting a light flux emitted by light emitting means, and scanning the surface of said photosensitive body by the thus-deflected light flux,

wherein all dots forming parts of images formed on the photosensitive layer of the photosensitive body are formed at a center between adjacent light fluxes as a result of the adjacent light fluxes being overlapped with one another in a sub-scan direction, and

wherein a ratio of a static beam-spot diameter W_s in the sub-scan direction on the surface of said photosensitive body defined by $1/e^2$ of the maximum value in the exposure distribution of the beam spot to an interval L between adjacent scan lines satisfies the following formula:

$$1.2 < W_s/L < 4.5$$

to thereby form said dots between adjacent scan lines in a manner to increase resolution in the sub-scan direction.